

Preserving Indigenous Culture or Spreading Multiculturalism Across Europe? – Challenges of EU Migration Policy

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Abstract

One of the main consequences of the globalization process is migration flows. As the world globalizes intensively and borders become open easily the issue of migration raises. Migration has become the defining issue of the 21st century. Migration or more appropriately, human mobility is vital for global prosperity. Migrants make contributions not only for their countries of destination but for the country of origin as well, but it still remains to be the controversial issue. Sometimes this process is perceived as a positive and beneficial for the countries, but it might be transformed in a problem as well. It depends on the type of this process. Thorough analyze should be done to investigate how the migrants are treated by each country and deep analyze should be done to see what is the link between the policies and aptitudes of the migrants. It's very interesting to decipher what is the correlation between the existing migration policy of the European Union and the status quo of the migrants, more precisely how effective is the current policy. Particularly, to conclude how paper based regulations/restrictions work in practice and how effective are they. How does the European Union stipulation for the idea "Unity in Diversity", work in practice? Borders themselves may just be lines, but crossing them changes many things. For example, you may find yourself in a totally different cultural surrounding with different religion, food, language or money. Being born one meter to the right or to the left of this artificial line determines us. It is so bizarre to think that one kilometer can change all of your life.

Keywords: Migration policy, cultural diversity, globalization

Introduction

Migration as a phenomenon always existed, however in the recent period it has become tightly linked to the process of globalization and its effects. Approximately 175 million people, including 10.4 million refugees, reside outside their home country, or put another way, one out of every 35

persons in the world is a migrant. There is no longer a single state that can claim to be untouched by human mobility.¹³¹ The migration has always existed as a process but in the recent period it has changed its pattern and has been transformed in a crisis.

The forces driving migration are many and complex, but moreover people change their locations in order to improve their economic prospects, to ensure a more secure living environment, to re-unite with their family members or to avoid persecution in their country of origin. Relocation of the people is one of the results of the process of globalization. The process of globalization not only means free mobility of capital and goods, but it also means movement of the people. As boundaries become open through the process of globalization substantial international flows of people move from one country into another.

Migration policies have been created in order to restrict migration on some level. Simultaneously, worldwide the legislation towards migration is being liberalized or toughened. It's the choice of the countries. Many countries are tightening their migration policies to separate desirable and not desirable migrants. Countries realize that on the one hand, they should open boundaries in order to have investments, that it's fruitful for their economic growth, that but on the other hand, they have to protect borders, not to have illegal migrants, not to have population imbalance or trafficking. It's out of question that migrants contribute to the economic growth of the recipient country, but it could create a problem and become a threat for the domestic workforce. The authorities realize that they should cooperate with each other and with international organizations in order to manage the process of migration properly, otherwise it would be very hard to control the flows. Noteworthy to mention that, many people are moving but even more people have desire to go abroad. Moreover, migration is not seen as a negative process, but it should be reasonably controlled by the authorities. Sometimes migration policies fail when they are based on a short-term view of the migratory.

Globalization somehow transformed the character and type of migration. In the previous decades, people moved mainly with the intention of permanent settlement. Recently this trend has been changed and now circular movement is characteristic. Previously, the policies towards migration have become tight, but now the countries as well as international organizations realize that the only restrictions are not the outcome and they should investigate the reasons, causes of migration.

Boundaries have never stopped changing through the centuries. Borders have never been static and are changing even now. Do borders

¹³¹ Eighty-sixth Session of the IOM Council: "Migration in a Globalized World".

matter? Old frontiers disappear, new appear. They vanish and come into sight, they are drawn or redrawn. The negotiation of identify difference has become a challenge to democracies nowadays, therefore preserving humans cultural and cognitive boundaries are the precious values. Integration via migration processes is necessary for the development of the countries, for creating cultural diversity. However, prudent steps should be taken these processes not to become threat to the national identity. Borders should have been managed in order to facilitate the movement of people, they are needed to reduce the risks connected to increased mobility. Borders should be managed so properly to achieve endeavor for creating this process of migration beneficial for all the countries.

Let's try to figure out how current European Union policy on migration works to ensure to serve the above mentioned purpose without difficulties. It's interesting to analyze why and in what aspects current EU migration policy fails and what changes are already announced by member states to take place. Some of the announced possible ways of solvency couldn't have been imagined while initiating the common migration policy. It is interesting to analyze if it is this the case when reality obliges and stipulate officials for change. Nowadays there is an ongoing debate that EU has to rethink its migration policy and asylum policy as well. The tragic facts became so common in recent period that it made officials and the nations to rethink how the EU migration policy works. One of the questions arising is why states come with initiatives individually to tackle mass influxes of migrants and if this means that common policy fails in this direction.

Membership of EU means equal coexistence, collective decision making and the balance of power. Which are predominant and foundational principles of the European Union. When the states try to sophisticate or improve common policy it's a different fact, but in this case when states individually try to stipulate for global change it means that the existing common policy fails.

Based on the above mentioned the hypothesis can't be developed that whenever states start to tackle mass influx of the migrants individually via different initiatives it means that common policy fails.

In many cases in international relations and politics in general the answer of a country's behaviors lies not on the surface and therefore we have to decipher existing signs in order to fully apprehend concrete intentions and real implications of their behavior. In the following research we will try to investigate facts which are hidden.

Content and speech analysis of politicians and official persons, who are involved in the decision-making process indicate on the above mentioned trend also. Official announcements and speeches made in mass media or printed media will be carefully analyzed. Also quantitative empirical

analyzes statistical data reveal general tendencies of increase of the mass influx of the migrants. The numbers are important when it comes to the migration management.

The reports and surveys of the international organizations for migration International organization for Migration (IOM), United National High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), International Center for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) to represent how common became the tragic facts in the recent period. Numerical data and statistics represent increased rates and mass influx of the migrants. Inclusion of publications of international European institutions, such as the European Commission, the European Council, Global Commission for International Migration, COMPAS, etc. emphasize that also. This is not a fact that only happens once, unfortunately we can generalize this issue and can speak about the increased scope of the issue when bearing in mind the other tragic facts like: At least 1,500 people drowned or went missing while attempting to reach Europe via the Mediterranean in 2011, according to the UN. From 1998 till 2013, 623,118 migrants have been found to reach the sea shores of the EU irregularly, representing an average of almost 40,000 persons a year. According to IOM Mediterranean update in 2015 there have been 704, 227 arrivals by sea in 2015 among them 3, 257 missing or dead. In October 2013 within a period of only ten days, almost 400 refugees drowned in the Mediterranean Sea on their way to the European Union. The European Union has come under pressure to revamp its immigration policies in the wake of the Lampedusa tragedy¹³² that led to the deaths of almost 400 people in Italian waters. Mediterranean became a "watery graveyard". Countries started to offence each other in the recent period. The magnitude of the disasters around Mediterranean and the awareness it raised about the unacceptable risk faced by migrants smuggled by sea to Europe triggered unprecedented reactions. Offending each other won't lead to problem solving, it's important countries member states of EU to have common approach to tackle the mass influx of migration. This is an issue of solidarity. Even though the EU has abolished border controls between most of its 28 member countries have a common migration policy nowadays they have started to rethink on the other ways of solutions. The current focus of documentation, thus will lie on news releases, official announcements, policy briefs and working papers, web, electronic resources, online publications and online libraries regarding migration policies at the European level.

Most of the literature comprises the themes: causes developments and impacts of migration, asylum and refugee policies, irregular migration and

¹³² <http://www.spiegel.de/international/europe/lampedusa-tragedy-prompts-calls-for-eu-to-amend-asylum-agreement-a-926453.html>

human smuggling and trafficking. In order to prove my hypothesis the data on the initiatives by states to tackle mass influxes of migrants individually looks as follows. Some of the examples are stated below:

➤ In the end of 2014 Austrian Chancellor Werner Faymann signaled an openness to an overhaul of the current system. He announced that EU should put together a system of quotas for the allocation of refugees across member states, he said. Extra financial aid to countries at the EU's external borders was just a temporary solution.¹³³

➤ In September 2015 both German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Francois Hollande, vocal supporters of a refugee redistribution program¹³⁴, called on their fellow European nations to help shoulder the responsibility for the unprecedented amount of refugees arriving in the European Union. Fresh tragedy in the Mediterranean, after at least 13 refugees - six of them children - drowned off the coast of Turkey.

➤ Unity eludes EU for Relocation – The migrants crisis also touched the Belgium According to the last quota –in 2015 according scheme Belgium expected to 4, 500 migrants.¹³⁵ Expectations were very close to reality.

➤ On October 25 2015 the leaders of EU have met in order to have discussed sharp division on the migrant crisis in Balkans. The content of this urgent meeting was to call countries to stop waving migrants without agreements to their neighbors.¹³⁶

➤ On 2015 12 November it has become declared that because of the migration crisis Sweden would have made border control. It was declared by Minister of Internal Affairs by Anders Igeman. In Sweden the number of migrants has reached its record which becomes threat to the well-being of the whole society. According to the Deutsche Welle in Sweden starting from the beginning of the September the country has received more than 80 000 migrants.¹³⁷

➤ “What the Paris Attacks Mean for Europe's Free Borders”, Border Europe”, “Europe’s Open Borders are Dying” the articles and blogs with these titles became very common within the recent days. After several devastating terror attacks hit Paris on 13 November 2015¹³⁸ French President Francois Hollande closed country's borders. It seemed like a drastic step for a country that is part of the Schengen zone in Europe and has not had

¹³³ <http://www.wsj.com/articles/SB10001424052702304069604579157073289778850>

¹³⁴ <http://www.dw.com/en/merkel-and-hollande-call-for-refugee-distribution-quotas-in-europe/a-18692857>

¹³⁵ <http://www.internationalpolicydigest.org/2015/09/17/the-migrant-crisis-comes-to-belgium/>

¹³⁶ <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-34631365>

¹³⁷ <http://www.newsjs.com/ng/sweden-implements-temporary-border-checks/>

¹³⁸ http://live.reuters.com/Event/Paris_attacks_2?Page=0

systematic border checkpoints in years. France has not closed its borders, but rather reimposed border controls. This is normal security protocol, but also a worrying sign for the future of a free Europe. European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker has described free movement as “a unique symbol of European integration.” He has also said that Europe needs an overhaul to its disparate immigration policies if it is going to preserve freedoms such as open internal borders. The deadly mass killings in Paris will not help matters: Italy has already reintroduced border controls since the attacks, with the heaviest security falling along its border with France. Belgium and Holland also imposed restrictions.¹³⁹

➤ The horror story of the 2016 was terrorist attacks in Belgium, Brussels. On 22 March 2016, three coordinated nail bombings occurred in Belgium: two at Brussels Airport in Zaventem, and one at Maalbeek metro station in Brussels. In these attacks, 32 victims and three perpetrators were killed, and over 300 people were injured. Another bomb was found during a search of the airport. Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) claimed responsibility for the attacks. The bombings were the deadliest act of terrorism in Belgium's history. The Belgian government declared three days of national mourning. These terrorist attacks once more indicated the need security measures to have been increased.

There is auxiliary material on the issue of migration mostly we have analyzed recent publications, among them are while preparing my research topic are the following:

Theories of International Migration” by of Douglas S. Massey, Joaquin Arango, Graeme Hugo, Ali Kouaouci, Adela Pellegrino, J. Edward Taylor Source in which are explained the theories and essence of international migration itself.

The publication of International Migration Institute particularly the article by Haas it is useful in order to perceive the process and pattern of migration as a whole. It is useful to analyze “The experimental Approaches in Migration Studies” by David MacKenzie in order to deepen knowledge how to make research more comprehensive.

IMISCOE textbook “An introduction to International Migration European Perspective” by Martiniello Marco, Rath Jan is also beneficial. In the book mainly is enshrined idea of European experience considering historical, empirical and theoretical perspectives. From IMISCOE report

¹³⁹<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/paris-attack-france-may-have-closed-its-borders-but-in-reality-its-unable-to-control-them-a6735211.html>
<http://www.citylab.com/crime/2015/11/what-the-paris-attacks-mean-for-europes-free-borders/416010/>

series “The Local dimension of Migration Policymaking” by Borker Maren, Caponio Tiziana will be carefully analyzed.

We accessed European Migration Network (EMN) for the annual country reports and statistics. The aim of the reports is to outline most significant political and legislative development in the EU member states. The recent publication of November of International Migration Institute “Rethinking Emigration: Turning Challenges into opportunities” by Demetrious G. Papademetriou will be accessed. The publication by Migration Policy center “The EU needs a new narrative on migration. Will the European Agenda on Migration meet the challenge?” by Fillipe Fargue will be also analyzed.

Conclusion

We tried to analyze correlation between the official statements and the real aptitudes of the politicians towards this issues and tried to decipher the reasons why states have started to deal with the migration crisis individually with their own initiatives, whereas having one common and shared policy for all the members of EU.

We came to the conclusion that European Union stipulates for the idea “Unity in Diversity”, but how this motto works in practice. Which means that disappearing and vanishing frontiers leads to the integration. Of course the identities of the nations are preserved, no radical transformations exist in cultural or social aspects but to maintain the uniqueness and “self” becomes more and more difficult and a challenge. But on the other hand merging created diversity and enriches the original cultures as well as social patterns.

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